

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

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O 171045Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4324

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL MAY 20, 1975

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: RTG PROTEST MEMORANDUM OVER THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN CONVOKED THE DCM
AT 1630 MAY 17 TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING PROTEST NOTE
OVER U.S. ACTIONS IN THE RECENT MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR.
CHATCHAI SAID THAT HE EXPECTED AMBASSADOR ANAN
PANYARACHUN TO PRESENT THE IDENTICAL TEXT TO
SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY 19.

BEGIN TEXT.

MEMORANDUM

THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED
OVER THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE RECENT MAYAGUEZ
AFFAIR WHICH HAS SERIOUSLY IMPINGED UPON THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY
OF THAILAND.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT WISHED
TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO THE
FOLLOWING FACTS:

1. ON TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1975 THE PRIME MINISTER

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OF THAILAND IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

INVITED THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO MEET HIM AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USE OF FORCE BY THE UNITED STATES TO RETRIEVE THE AMERICAN VESSEL MAYAGUEZ SEIZED BY CAMBODIA. THE PRIME MINISTER CLEARLY STATED THE POSITION OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT THAT THAILAND DID NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS AFFAIR AND ALSO THAT THAI TERRITORY WAS NOT TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AGAINST CAMBODIA. THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THIS POSITION AND ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT.

2. EARLY ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1975 THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT LEARNT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD SENT SOME ELEMENTS OF ITS MARINES FORCES INTO THAILAND AT U-TAPAO AIRBASE WITHOUT THE FOREKNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER THEREUPON SUMMONED THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO LODGE A PROTEST AGAINST THIS ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE GOODWILL EXISTING BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES AND WARNED THAT UNLESS THESE FORCES WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND IMMEDIATELY THE GOOD RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE EXPOSED TO SERIOUS AND DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES.

3. DESPITE THE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED POSITION OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT AS EARLIER CONVEYED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THAI TERRITORY WAS USED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CAMBODIA TO RECOVER THE VESSEL MAYAGUEZ ON THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1975, AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE MILITARY ACTION HAD BEEN COMPLETED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE MARINES WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION EVOLVING FROM THESE REGRETTABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES CHOSE TO DISREGARD THE WILL OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES AND TO PROMOTE THEIR FUTURE CO-OPERATION ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL INTEREST, IT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THAILAND BE RESPECTED AND THAT THE GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP OF THAILAND BE NOT ABUSED AGAIN.

THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT THEREFORE HAS DECIDED THAT A REVIEW OF ALL ASPECTS OF CO-COPERATION AND COMMITMENTS EXISTING BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES IS ESSENTIAL

AND SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN IMMEDIATELY. THIS REVIEW SHALL ALSO EXTEND TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE USE OF MILITARY BASES AND FACILITIES IN THAILAND BY THE UNITED STATES, PENDING THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND BY MARCH 1976 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECLARED POLICY OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT. END TEXT
WHITEHOUSE

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